(b) if so, whether during this period IIP could transfer only 23 technologies, including 14 developed prior to 1994 and failed to recover royalty/licence fee worth Rs.2.94 crore in 16 cases;

(c) if so, whether such failure was due to non-inclusion of penalty clauses in the transfer agreements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No Sir, the number of projects undertaken for development of technologies were 24 and the remaining were studies for feasibility, evaluation, certification etc. The amount of Rs.2.94 crore from licensing of 16 technologies is envisaged to accrue on implementation of the projects. In a majority of the cases, the licensees are facing difficulties in project implementation due to adverse business and financial conditions and in other cases the amount is to accrue on successful realisation of implementation milestones.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Inflow of hazardous steel scrap

*128. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inflow of huge quantity of hazardous steel scrap from the debris of the World Trade Centre, New York, into India recently, in violation of the accepted environment norms;

(b) whether any communication on above subject has been received from the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, during January-February 2002; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Various organisations namely All India Trade Union Congress, All India Port & Dock Workers Federation, India Centre for Human Rights & Law, Green Peace and Corp Watch including Centre of Indian Trade Unions have written to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, drawing the attention of the inflow of steel scrap from the debris of the World Trade Centre (WTC), New York into India. An officer from Ministry of Environment & Forests was deputed to Chennai to investigate the matter. It has been reported that about 33,000 tonnes of steel scrap from World Trade Centre (WTC) wreckage and other sources in the United States have been shipped to Chennai Port. The Ministry also held inter-ministerial consultations on this issue.

Steel scrap is not a hazardous waste as per the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 and amendments 2000. Steel Scrap also is not categorised as hazardous waste in the Basel Convention on the Control of Transbounday Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Steel scrap, being a free commodity under EXIM Policy, is routinely imported into the country for recovery of steel.

The chemical analysis report of M/s. SGS India (Pvt.) Ltd. has shown that the imported steel scrap does not contain hazardous constituents up to detectable limits.

Malpractices in NOS Examinations

*129. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been widespread criticism of the conduct of examinations under the National Open School system;

(b) if so, the malpractices reported during the last two years; and

(c) the action taken to conduct examinations under the National Open School system, more seriously?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The National Open School has been vested with the